

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended)      A printing system performing printing on the basis of digital data, comprising:

        a plurality of unit controllers; and

        a server controller ~~totally~~ managing said plurality of unit controllers, wherein said server controller has command means commanding the plurality of unit controllers to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data, the process including rasterization of each color component of digital data of objective matter to be printed, shared between the plurality of unit controllers, said plurality of separate plate data being created by separating digital data of objective matter to be printed into a plurality of color components and rasterizing the same, and

        each of said plurality of unit controllers has separate plate data creation means creating at least one separate plate data among said plurality of separate plate data from the digital data of said objective ~~printed~~ matter to be printed on the basis of the command by said command means, in response to an inquiry by said server controller, each of said plurality of unit controllers notifies said server controller whether preparation for creation of separate plate data is completed, and

said server controller sends each of said plurality of unit controllers the command to create separate plate data on condition that said preparation is completed.

2. (Currently Amended) The printing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of printing units corresponding to said plurality of unit controllers respectively, wherein

each of said plurality of unit controllers transfers the at least one separate plate data, ~~with respect to the corresponding printing unit, at least one separate plate data whose printing output is taken charge of in said printing unit.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The printing system according to claim 2, wherein said server controller has separate plate data storage means storing said plurality of separate plate data created in said plurality of unit controllers, and

each of said unit controllers transfers the separate plate data stored in said separate plate data storage means of said server controller to said corresponding printing unit ~~provided in correspondence to each unit controller.~~

4. (Original) The printing system according to claim 3, wherein said server controller has monitoring means monitoring work contents of each of said plurality of unit controllers.

5. (Currently Amended) A server controller in a printing system performing printing on the basis of digital data, comprising:

command generation means generating a command to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data between ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of unit controllers, said process

including rasterization of each color component of digital data of objective matter to be printed,  
~~said plurality of separate plate data being created by separating digital data of objective matter to~~  
~~be printed into a plurality of color components and rasterizing the same; and,~~

transmission means transmitting said command to said plurality of unit controllers,  
wherein

said server controller sends each of said plurality of unit controllers an inquiry as to  
whether preparation for creation of separate plate data is completed, and sends each of said  
plurality of unit controllers an instruction to create separate plate data on condition that a reply  
notifying completion of said preparation is received.

6. (Currently Amended) A unit controller in a printing system performing printing  
on the basis of digital data, comprising:

acceptance means accepting a command signal; and

separate plate data creation means creating at least one separate plate data ~~to be taken~~  
~~charge of in said unit controller~~ among a plurality of separate plate data ~~created by~~ rasterizing at  
least one color component of digital data of objective matter to be printed ~~performing separation~~  
~~into a plurality of color components and performing rasterization on the basis of digital data of~~  
~~matter to be printed~~ in response to said command signal, wherein

said unit controller is communicatively coupled to a server controller, and  
in response to an inquiry by said server controller, said unit controller notifies said server  
controller whether preparation for creation of separate plate data is completed.

7. (New) The printing system according to claim 1, wherein the process of creating the plurality of separate plate data includes separation of the digital data into a plurality of color components by the server controller before the rasterization of each color component of digital data is performed by the plurality of unit controllers.

8. (New) The printing system according to claim 1, wherein the process of creating the plurality of separate plate data includes separation of the digital data into a plurality of color components by the plurality of unit controllers before the rasterization of each color component of the digital data is performed.

9. (New) The server controller according to claim 5, wherein the process of creating the plurality of separate plate data includes separation of the digital data into a plurality of color components by the server controller before the rasterization of each color component of the digital data is performed by the plurality of unit controllers.

10. (New) The unit controller according to claim 6, wherein the separate plate data creation means is configured for separating the digital data into a plurality of color components before rasterizing of the at least one color component of the digital data.